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(4) Any preliminary permit application must be submitted for filing in competition with an initial development application not later than the deadlines prescribed in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) for the submission of preliminary permit applications filed in competition with an initial preliminary permit application.

(c) *Notices of intent.* (1) Any notice of intent to file an application in competition with an initial preliminary permit or an initial development application must be submitted for filing not later than the prescribed intervention deadline for the initial application.

(2) A notice of intent must include:

(i) The exact name, business address, and telephone number of the prospective applicant; and

(ii) An unequivocal statement of intent to submit a preliminary permit application or a development application (specify which type of application).

(d) *Requirements for competing applications.* (1) Any competing application must:

(i) Conform to all requirements for filing an initial application; and

(ii) Include proof of service of a copy of the competing application on the person(s) designated in the public notice of the initial application for service of pleadings, documents, or communications concerning the initial application.

(2) *Comparisons of plans of development.* (i) After the deadline for filing applications in competition against an initial development application has expired, the Commission will notify each license and exemption applicant of the identity of the other applicants.

(ii) Not later than 14 days after the Commission serves the notification described in paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section, if a license or exemption applicant has not already done so, it must serve a copy of its application on each of the other license and exemption applicants.

(iii) Not later than 60 days after the Commission serves the notification described in paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section, each license and exemption applicant must file with the Commission a detailed and complete statement of how its plans are as well or better

adapted than are the plans of each of the other license and exemption applicants to develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region. These statements should be supported by any technical analyses that the applicant deems appropriate to support its proposed plans of development.

[Order 413, 50 FR 11680, Mar. 25, 1985; 50 FR 23947, June 7, 1985]

§ 4.37 Rules of preference among competing applications.

Except as provided in § 4.33(e), the Commission will select among competing applications on the following bases:

(a) If an accepted application for a preliminary permit and an accepted application for a license propose project works that would develop, conserve, and utilize, in whole or in part, the same water resources, and the applicant for a license has demonstrated its ability to carry out its plans, the Commission will favor the license applicant unless the permit applicant substantiates in its filed application that its plans are better adapted to develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region.

(b) If two or more applications for preliminary permits or two or more applications for licenses (not including applications for a new license under section 15 of the Federal Power Act) are filed by applicants for project works that would develop, conserve, and utilize, in whole or in part, the same water resources, and if none of the applicants is a preliminary permittee whose application for license was accepted for filing within the permit period, the Commission will select between or among the applicants on the following bases:

(1) If both or neither of two applicants are either a municipality or a state, the Commission will favor the applicant whose plans are better adapted to develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region, taking into consideration the ability of each applicant to carry out its plans.

(2) If both of two applicants are either a municipality or a state, or neither of them is a municipality or a state, and the plans of the applicants are equally well adapted to develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region, taking into consideration the ability of each applicant to carry out its plans, the Commission will favor the applicant with the earliest application acceptance date.

(3) If one of two applicants is a municipality or a state, and the other is not, and the plans of the municipality or a state are at least as well adapted to develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region, the Commission will favor the municipality or state.

(4) If one of two applicant is a municipality or a state, and the other is not, and the plans of the applicant who is not a municipality or a state are better adapted to develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region, the Commission will inform the municipality or state of the specific reasons why its plans are not as well adapted and afford a reasonable period of time for the municipality or state to render its plans at least as well adapted as the other plans. If the plans of the municipality or state are rendered at least as well adapted within the time allowed, the Commission will favor the municipality or state. If the plans are not rendered at least as well adapted within the time allowed, the Commission will favor the other applicant.

(c) If two or more applications for licenses are filed for project works which would develop, conserve, and utilize, in whole or in part, the same water resources, and one of the applicants was a preliminary permittee whose application was accepted for filing within the permit period (*priority applicant*), the Commission will select between or among the applicants on the following bases:

(1) If the plans of the priority applicant are at least as well adapted as the plans of each other applicant to develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region, taking into consideration the ability of each applicant to carry out

its plans, the Commission will favor the priority applicant.

(2) If the plans of an applicant who is not a priority applicant are better adapted than the plans of the priority applicant to develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region, taking into consideration the ability of each applicant to carry out its plans, the Commission will inform the priority applicant of the specific reasons why its plans are not as well adapted and afford a reasonable period of time for the priority applicant to render its plans at least as well adapted as the other plans. If the plans of the priority applicant are rendered at least as well adapted within the time allowed, then the Commission will favor the priority applicant. If the plans of the priority applicant are not rendered as well adapted within the time allowed, the criteria specified in paragraph (b) will govern.

(3) The criteria specified in paragraph (b) will govern selection among applicants other than the priority applicant.

(d) With respect to a project for which an application for an exemption from licensing has been accepted for filing, the Commission will select among competing applications on the following bases:

(1) If an accepted application for a preliminary permit and an accepted application for exemption from licensing propose to develop mutually exclusive small hydroelectric power projects, the Commission will favor the applicant whose substantiated plans in the application received by the Commission are better adapted to develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region. If the substantiated plans are equally well adapted, the Commission will favor the application for exemption from licensing.

(2) If an application for a license and an application for exemption from licensing, or two or more applications for exemption from licensing are each accepted for filing and each proposes to develop a mutually exclusive project, the Commission will favor the applicant whose plans are better adapted to develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water resources of

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the region. If the plans are equally well adapted, the Commission will favor the applicant with the earliest application acceptance date.

(e) A municipal applicant must provide evidence that the municipality is competent under applicable state and local laws to engage in the business of developing, transmitting, utilizing, or distributing power, or such applicant will be considered a non-municipal applicant for the purpose of determining the disposition of competing applications.

[Order 413, 50 FR 11682, Mar. 25, 1985, as amended by Order 2002, 68 FR 51117, Aug. 25, 2003]

§ 4.38 Consultation requirements.

(a) *Requirement to consult.* (1) Before it files any application for an original license or an exemption from licensing that is described in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, a potential applicant must consult with the relevant Federal, State, and interstate resource agencies, including the National Marine Fisheries Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal agency administering any United States lands or facilities utilized or occupied by the project, the appropriate State fish and wildlife agencies, the appropriate State water resource management agencies, the certifying agency under section 401(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), 33 U.S.C. § 1341(c)(1), and any Indian tribe that may be affected by the proposed project.

(2) Each requirement in this section to contact or consult with resource agencies or Indian tribes shall be construed to require as well that the potential applicant contact or consult with members of the public.

(3) If a potential applicant for an original license commences first stage pre-filing consultation on or after July 23, 2005 it shall file a notification of intent to file a license application pursuant to § 5.5 and a pre-application document pursuant to the provisions of § 5.6.

(4) The Director of the Office of Energy Projects will, upon request, provide a list of known appropriate Fed-

eral, state, and interstate resource agencies, Indian tribes, and local, regional, or national non-governmental organizations likely to be interested in any license application proceeding.

(5) An applicant for an exemption from licensing or an applicant for a license seeking benefits under section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, as amended, for a project that would be located at a new dam or diversion must, in addition to meeting the requirements of this section, comply with the consultation requirements in § 4.301.

(6) The pre-filing consultation requirements of this section apply only to an application for:

- (i) Original license;
- (ii) Exemption;
- (iii) Amendment to an application for original license or exemption that materially amends the proposed plans of development as defined in § 4.35(f)(1);
- (iv) Amendment to an existing license that would increase the capacity of the project as defined in § 4.201(b); or
- (v) Amendment to an existing license that would not increase the capacity of the project as defined in § 4.201(b), but that would involve:

(A) The construction of a new dam or diversion in a location where there is no existing dam or diversion;

(B) Any repair, modification, or reconstruction of an existing dam that would result in a significant change in the normal maximum surface area or elevation of an existing impoundment; or

(C) The addition of new water power turbines other than to replace existing turbines.

(7) Before it files a non-capacity related amendment as defined in § 4.201(c), an applicant must consult with the resource agencies and Indian tribes listed in paragraph (a)(1) of this section to the extent that the proposed amendment would affect the interests of the agencies or tribes. When consultation is necessary, the applicant must, at a minimum, provide the resource agencies and Indian tribes with copies of the draft application and allow them at least 60 days to comment on the proposed amendment. The amendment as filed with the Commission must summarize the consultation